

Remarks

Claims 1-7 and 22-32 are in the application, of which claim 1 is in independent form.

The Office action has rejected claims 1, 5, 22, 26, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Parish (U.S. 5,302,652) and Kuromatsu et al. (JP 2002-105200) or Yin et al. (*Chem. Let.*, Vol. 32 N4 (2002), pp 328-329) and the Office action has rejected claims 6, 22-25, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Parish in view of Kuromatsu or Yin and in further view of Lee et al. (U.S. 7,157,548). Applicants respond as follows.

Applicants believe that these claims are not obvious based on a combination of Parish with Kuromatsu or Yin nor obvious based a combination of Parish and Lee with Kuromatsu or Yin for the following reasons:

1) The molecular structure stated in the present application is not disclosed by any one of the cited documents and therefore has a novelty absolutely. Furthermore, there is no motivation for creating the molecular structure disclosed in claim 1 of the present application in any one of the cited documents.

2) Parish discloses only a polyimide wherein $x=6$ in the present application, but Parish does not include a sulfonic acid group or the like. Furthermore, the purpose of Parish is to make pigment particles wetted evenly, and the content is low such as 2 to 5%. Because the purpose of Parish is different from that of the present application, one skilled in the art cannot expect the effects of the present invention from Parish.

3) Kuromatsu, Yin and Lee fail to teach an introduction of $(CH_2)_x$ into a main chain of polyimide. These documents teach an introduction of only an aromatic group and therefore teach away from the introduction of a linear or branched alkylene group into a main chain of polyimide.

4) A person skilled in the art could not expect that proton conductivity and stability of an electrolyte membrane would be improved based on the disclosure of any one of cited documents.

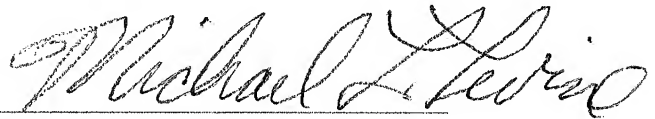
Based on the above four reasons, a skilled person would not be motivated to combine the cited references nor would such person foresee the claimed invention. Thus, the claimed invention is not obvious from the combination of Parish with Kuromatsu or Yin nor from the combination of Parish and Lee with Kuromatsu or Yin. Applicants request, therefore, that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Applicants believe that no fee is required in connection with filing of this amendment or any of the enclosed papers. However, in the event that a fee is required, applicants hereby authorize the Director to charge required fees to USPTO Deposit Account No. 19-4455.

Respectfully submitted,

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